

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 10327 031057Z
ACTION HA-05

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R 030816Z AUG 78
FM AMCONGSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2179
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LISBON
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJ: MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG TO MACAU

REF: A) STATE 188299, B) HONG KONG 9845, C) GENEVA 11726

1. UNHCR REP CARPENTER RETURNED TO HONG KONG AUG 1 AFTER TWO DAY VISIT TO MACAU. HE REPORTED THAT HE PLANS TO MOVE 122 CAT I THROUGH III REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG TO MACAU IN SEVERAL WEEKS. ANOTHER 25 REFUGEES ARRIVED DIRECTLY IN MACAU THIS WEEK FOR A TOTAL OF 204 IN MACAU. CARPENTER SAID THAT MACAU AUTHORITIES NEEDED SEVERAL WEEKS TO SORT OUT THIS GROUP AND LAST WEEK'S ARRIVALS BEFORE MOVEMENT FROM HONG KONG COULD COMMENCE.

2. CARPENTER IS STILL RELUCTANT TO MOVE CAT IV REFUGEES TO MACAU. HE SEEMS TO FEEL BOUND BY THE THREE AND SIX MONTH TIME LIMITS MENTIONED IN UNDER-SECRETARY SANTOS' LETTER AND STATES, UNLESS CAT IV NUMBERS COULD BE ASSIGNED SOON, REFUGEES SHOULD NOT BE MOVED TO MACAU WHO MIGHT STAY THERE UP TO ONE YEAR. WHEN HIGH HONG KONG MAINTENANCE COSTS WERE MENTIONED TO HIM, HE ACKNOWLEDGED
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THIS IS PROBLEM AND AGREED TO DISCUSS MATTER AGAIN.

3. HE ALSO REPORTED THAT CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES IN MACAU HAS REDUCED CARE AND MAINTENANCE COSTS TO \$3 DAILY PER REFUGEE, BUT REQUESTED FUNDS FOR SOME CAPTIOLE EXPENDITURES, SUCH AS PARTITIONS, TO WHICH HE AGREED.

4. CAPENTER SAID HE HAS PRESENTED NUMBER OF CASES TO AUSTRALIANS AND IS WORKING TO ENSURE THAT CANADIAN MONTHLY QUOTA WILL BE FILLED. HE WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN U.K. AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT 62 REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG INSTEAD OF QUOTA OF 50 ORIGINALLY OFFERED.

5. COMMENT: DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES IN MACAU WILL VISIT HONG KONG NEXT SEVERAL DAYS AND WE WILL TRY TO ASCERTAIN TIME ESTIMATE OF MOVEMENT FROM HIM. HOWEVER, SINCE REFUGEES IN CAT IV CONSTITUTE UP TO HALF OF THOSE (NOW 1,926) IN HONG KONG, WE BELIEVE IT NECESSARY TO MOVE CAT IV REFUGEES TO MACAU IF ITS FULL POTENTIAL IS BE UTILIZED. IT APPEARS THAT HIGH CARE AND MAINTENANCE COSTS IN HONG KONG (NOW OVER \$400,000 MONTHLY) HAS NOT YET SPURRED UNHCR INTO MORE RAPID AND IMAGINATIVE MOVEMENT. SHOESITH

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